

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03388 201443Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08
DLOS-09 /106 W

-----002947 201449Z /64

O 201415Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8352
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3388

THIS IS A JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS LE IS PLO
SUBJ: LEBANESE-ISRAELI NAVAL ENCOUNTER?

1. SUMMARY: GOL CLAIMS THAT LEBANESE NAVY JUNE 18
SEIZED SHIP CARRYING ILLEGAL ARMS AND CONTRABAND FROM
CYPRUS TO SOUTH LEBANON, BUT THAT ISRAELI NAVAL SHIPS
INTERVENED, FIRED ON THE LEBANESE VESSELS AND EVENTUALLY
SEIZED THE CONTRABAND SHIP. PRESS REPORTS FROM
ISRAEL CLAIM ISRAELI NAVY SEIZED SHIP AND BROUGHT IT TO
HAIFA, BUT MAKE NO REFERENCE TO LEBANESE NAVY INVOLVE-
MENT. END SUMMARY.

2. OFFICIAL GOL NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN JUNE 19,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03388 201443Z

ENGLISH EDITION, REPORTS FOLLOWING:

QUOTE: "ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANESE COASTGUARD BOATS
DURING OPERATION AGAINST SMUGGLED ARMS.

"ISRAELI NAVAL UNITS YESTERDAY ATTACKED TWO
COASTGUARD VESSELS OF THE LEBANESE NAVAL FORCE WHICH

WERE TOWING A SHIP LOADED WITH ARMS DESTINED FOR SARAFAND IN SOUTH LEBANON.

"THE DAY BEFORE, THE ARMY COMMAND HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE SHIP, "DIMITRIA," WOULD BE SAILING FROM LIMASOL IN CYPRUS TO THE SOUTH WITH A SHIP-MENT OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND OTHER SMUGGLED GOODS.

"THE LEBANESE COASTGUARD VESSELS STOPPED THE SHIP AND TOOK OVER CONTROL OF IT AND WERE TOWING IT TOWARDS THE NAVAL BASE IN JOUNIEH WHEN ISRAELI NAVAL UNITS INTERVENED, OPENING FIRE ON THE LEBANESE VESSELS AND SEIZED THE SHIP. THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES CONTINUED FOR OVER AN HOUR AFTER WHICH THE ENEMY SHIPS WERE ABLE TO SEIZE THE SHIP LOADED WITH ARMS AND TOW IT OUT OF THE LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS, HAVING HIT ONE OF THE LEBANESE VESSELS.

"THERE WAS NO LOSS OF LIFE AMONG THE LEBANESE SAILORS, A MILITARY BULLETIN REPORTED, AND THE LOSSES OF THE ENEMY WERE UNKNOWN." END QUOTE.

3. LEBANESE ARMY COMMAND SOURCE TOLD DATT THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN LEBANESE AND ISRAELI VESSELS AND THAT AFTER ITS RELEASE FROM HAIFA, THE "DIMITRIA" DID PROCEED TO SARAFAND AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03388 201443Z

UNLOADED A CARGO (NATURE UNKNOWN). BECAUSE IT WAS ALLOWED TO PROCEED, FROM HAIFA, LEBANESE ARMY SOURCES SPECULATED THAT CARGO MUST HAVE BEEN CONTRABAND WHISKEY OR CIGARETTES.

4. BEIRUT PRESS JUNE 20 QUOTES ISRAELI NEWSPAPER MAARIV MILITARY CORRESPONDENT REPORT REFERRING TO A SMALL CYPRIOT-FLAG CARGO SHIP WHICH WAS SEIZED BY ISRAELI NAVAL UNITS AND BROUGHT TO HAIFA, SEARCHED AND LATER RELEASED.

5. PRESS COMMENTS THAT GOL REPORT IS FIRST EVER OF A SEA BATTLE BETWEEN LEBANON AND ISRAEL. IKE COMMENTS THAT REPORT IS FIRST SERIOUS ATTEMPT BY GOL TO BLOCK SUPPLIES TO PALESTINIANS SINCE THE CIVIL WAR. PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMUGGLING, ARMS, SHIP DETENTION, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT03388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780256-1249
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780642/aaaabjxn.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4264c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2291469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE-ISRAELI NAVAL ENCOUNTER?
TAGS: MOPS, LE, IS, PLO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4264c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014